R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 12-21 have been added.

New claims 12-21 have been prepared to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner have all been corrected, proper antecedent basis has been provided for all claimed elements, and all claimed elements and the structural relationships therebetween have been more positively and more clearly recited.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the new claims be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 11 claims of which 2 were independent. The application now contains 10 claims, of which 6 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of $252.00 for the addition of 3 extra independent claims is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby

given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,327,599 (Warmus et al), claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Warmus et al and USP 5,588,103 (Aoyagi), and claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Warmus et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 12-21.

Warmus et al discloses an apparatus in which there are prepared two formats for a document having a plurality of pages, and one format is selected out of the two formats. Information concerning an area in the selected format to which an "image object" is to be inserted is stored in "variable page files", and actual data stored in a database are inserted into designated areas based on the "variable page files". A document composed of various data is then displayed and/or printed. In addition, Warmus et al also teaches that the "variable page files" can be edited by a user.

Aoyagi discloses a technology relating to a document editor which records a document including characters, diagrams and its

-10-

logical structure, and designates display or non-display for each structure element in the logical structure.

As recognized by the Examiner, the teachings of Warmus et al and Aoyagi, or the combination thereof, may be used to create and/or print a document which includes data at arbitrary positions, using various kinds of data previously created and recorded.

The document processing apparatus (and computer program code) according to the present invention as recited in new claims 12-21 stores plural documents each including plural pages, with each document being created using a generally available application program, selects desired pages from the stored plural documents, and re-edits the selected pages to create a new document including various kind of data at arbitrary positions. In addition, the document processing apparatus (and computer program code) according to the claimed present invention can display and/or print without any limitations the created new document without using any control program specialized in controlling all processes from a data creating process to an editing process for editing the document including the created data.

As recognized by the Examiner, both Warmus et al and Aoyagi as well as the claimed present invention have a similar function of creating, displaying and/or printing, without limitations, a

-11-

document including various kinds of data. In the cited

references, object data (image data) which is stored in a format

previously determined using a document editing program can be

inserted and positioned at an arbitrary position on each page

composing a new document. In the cited references, however, data

created using an application program which can not create the

object data (image data) in the previously determined format can

not be combined with other data created using other application

programs to create a new document.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention,

data is processed in page units to be inserted into a document

and not in units of object to be inserted in a page, and

therefore data (or pages) created using an application program

for creating a document including plural pages can be used with

ease without paying attention to the format of the object data to

be stored or management in a position coordinate of the object to

be inserted onto a page.

In other words, generally the application program for

creating a document and running on a conventional operating

system can use a standard printing function of the operating

system to print a page of the document created using the

application program, and the document data output in a format in

which the data can be processed to be printed in page units is in

a standard format and can be combined with a page in the document

data created using other application programs. This function or

technique is employed in the document processing apparatus (and

computer program code) of the claimed present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al and Aoyagi do

not disclose, teach or suggest the essential elements of new

independent claim 12 such as "document data obtaining means for

obtaining plural document data each including plural pages each

in a format with a page number added, the plural document data

being prepared using respective different kinds of application

programs"; "storage means for storing the plural document data

obtained by the document data obtaining means"; "selecting means

for selecting plural pages from among the plural pages included

in the plural document data stored in the storage means to create

a virtual document"; and "controlling means for: (i) reading out

the plural pages selected by the selecting means from the plural

document data stored in the storage means, (ii) amending the page

number added in the format of each of the read out plural pages

in accordance with the virtual document created by the selecting

means, and (iii) outputting the plural pages each in the format

with the amended page number added for a printing purpose".

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Warmus et al

and Aoyagi do not disclose, teach or suggest the essential

elements of new independent claim 14 such as "converting means

for converting plural documents into plural graphic data in page

-13-

units, the plural documents being prepared using respective
application programs"; "designating means for designating plural
graphic data in page units among the plural graphic data included
in the virtual SPOOL file, and for creating a virtual document
including the designated graphic data in page units"; and
"controlling means for reading out, for a printing purpose, the
plural graphic data in page units from the virtual SPOOL file
based on the page information included in the virtual-document
management file, when a printing operation is instructed based on
the page information included in the virtual document management
file".

And still further, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus
et al and Aoyagi do not disclose, teach or suggest the essential
elements of new independent claim 17 such as "converting means
for converting plural documents into plural document data in page
units, each document being prepared using an application
program"; "instruction means for instructing editing of a virtual
document"; "displaying means for displaying page information
included in the plural document data of each of the documents
stored in the storage means, when the editing of the virtual
document is instructed by the instruction means"; and "editing
means for editing the virtual document including plural document
data of the plural documents upon an instruction on the

-14-

displaying means on which the page information included in the plural document data of each of the documents is displayed."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of new independent claims 12, 14 and 17, as well as corresponding computer program claims 19-21 and claims 13, 15-16 and 18 respectively depending from new claims 12, 14 and 17, all patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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